



Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

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LAND DEVELOPERS INDICTED FOR DESTROYING PUBLIC LANDS

TUCSON, ARIZONA – TIMOTHY R. BLOWERS, 48, of Tucson, Arizona, and **LANE H. HOLMES**, 38, of Las Vegas, Nevada, were indicted by a federal grand jury, on February 3, 2000, on charges of conspiracy, destruction of archaeological resources, destruction of government property, cutting, injury and destruction of trees growing upon lands of the United States, trespass and unauthorized use, occupancy and development of public lands. **Lane Holmes** was arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 16, 2000, and **Timothy R. Blowers** was arrested on February 17, 2000, in Tucson, Arizona, by Agents from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Interior.

The 37-count indictment charges land developers **Blowers** and **Holmes** with illegally cutting in new roads and widening and enlarging existing primitive two-track roads on public lands administered by the BLM in Pima County, south of Tucson, between March 1, 1997 and June 16, 1998. According to the indictment, these lands contained a prehistoric Hohokam Indian archeological site, known as Indian Kitchen, and prehistoric agricultural fields used by the Hohokam Indians, as well as, numerous Hohokam Indian artifacts. It is alleged that the defendants created new roads and enlarged the existing two-track roads, on BLM land, in order to connect private land, they owned or controlled, to Pima County maintained roads, to increase the resale value of the private lands. The indictment charges that the damage to the desert habitat, flora and archeological resources is in excess of \$1,000,000.

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The investigation that led to the indictment was conducted by agents with the Bureau of Land Management from Douglas and Tucson, Arizona. The prosecution is being handled by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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